



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- The Associated Press reports that federal officials are investigating whether oxygen masks and an emergency chute deployed properly during last week's emergency landing of an American Airlines jet at Los Angeles International Airport. (See item [18](#))
- According to eFluxMedia, possible contamination with E. coli prompted Nebraska Beef LTD to issue a recall of 1.2 million pounds of beef. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service confirmed the belief that beef products from the company are contaminated with E. coli. (See item [27](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 12, Financial Times* – (International) **BP shuts pipelines on fears over Georgia**. BP shut down a pipeline carrying Caspian oil from Azerbaijan to the Georgian Sea on Tuesday citing concern about security in Georgia. A BP spokesman said the 150,000 barrels a day pipeline from Baku to Supsa on the Georgian Black Sea had been closed as a “security precaution.” He said “very small volumes of Azeri oil, less than 100,000 barrels a day,” are now being exported via railways across the Caucasus and a pipeline to Russia. He said BP was unaware of any attacks on oil and gas pipelines in Georgia, despite Georgian claims that Russian warplanes had bombed the pipelines. The

Georgian prime minister said Tuesday that Georgian railways and oil ports and Black Sea ports were in working order. The prime minister of Kazakhstan said “no harmful action had been taken at Batumi,” a Georgian port owned by KazMunaigas, the Kazakh state oil company. However, the prime minister ordered a halt to exports across the Caucasus to Batumi on Monday. The International Energy Agency (IEA) warned on Tuesday that the conflict in Georgia threatens the strategic energy export corridor linking the Caspian and central Asia with western oil and gas markets. “Recent escalation in the military engagement between Russia and Georgia poses a threat to certain key oil and gas pipelines which transit Georgia,” the IEA said in a report issued shortly before Russia declared a ceasefire in Georgia. The pipelines, built by foreign consortia with strong political backing from the U.S., have eased Russia’s stranglehold over oil and gas exports from the landlocked Caspian region.

Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8e85a732-6866-11dd-a4e5-0000779fd18c.dwp?uclid=e8477cc4-c820-11db-b0dc-000b5df10621.html>

2. *August 11, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. ship heads for Arctic to define territory.** A Coast Guard cutter will embark on an Arctic voyage this week to determine the extent of the continental shelf north of Alaska and map the ocean floor, data that could be used for oil and natural gas exploration. U.S. and University of New Hampshire scientists on the Coast Guard Cutter Healy will leave Barrow, Alaska, on Thursday on a three-week journey. They will create a three-dimensional map of the Arctic Ocean floor in a relatively unexplored area known as the Chukchi borderland. The Healy will launch again on September 6, when it will be joined by Canadian scientists aboard an icebreaker, who will help collect data to determine the thickness of sediment in the region. With oil at \$114 a barrel, after hitting a record \$147 in July, and sea ice melting fast, countries like Russia and the U.S. are looking north for possible energy riches. “These are places nobody’s gone before, in essence, so this is a first step,” said the director of the oceanic affairs office at the U.S. State Department. She said the data collected may provide information to the public about future oil and natural gas sources for the U.S. This will be the fourth year that the U.S. has collected data to define the limits of its continental shelf in the Arctic.

Source: <http://www.khbz.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=104668&article=4082240>

3. *August 11, Reuters* – (Kentucky) **Marathon: KY refinery cuts rates after pipe leak.** Marathon Oil Corp. confirmed on Monday that its 222,000 barrel per day refinery in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, was at reduced rates after a crude oil pipeline supplying the refinery ruptured. “The refinery is still operational, but the crude throughput rate has been reduced,” a Marathon spokesman said. “We will, of course, resume normal operations at the refinery as soon as the pipeline is repaired.” The pipeline was shut on Sunday morning after the company detected low pressure. Marathon estimated about 5,000 barrels of crude oil were spilled from the pipeline. Marathon has dispatched 100 responders to the site of the spill, which occurred on private farm and wooded land. “The oil remains contained at the site and has not impacted the local waterway,” he said. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has had two inspectors onsite since Sunday trying to determine what the

cause of failure was, but no information was available yet, an agency spokeswoman said Monday.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1139350220080811?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *August 11, KCBD 11 Lubbock* – (Texas) **Thousands of dollars worth of chemicals recovered.** Monday, Lubbock County Investigators discovered thousands of dollars worth of chemicals in a North Lubbock, Texas, storage facility. Authorities say the chemicals were stolen from Helena Chemical Company during the July 4th weekend. Authorities said they discovered nearly \$70,000 worth of stolen chemicals in a storage shed at Warehouses For You close to Helena Chemical. The chemicals have been removed from the storage facility. “Ultimately, there were seven containers of Round Up recovered and 39 containers of Temk. We’re looking at a recovery of around \$71,000 - \$72,000 worth of merchandise,” an official said.
Source: http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=8825402&nav=menu69_1_3
5. *August 11, Houston Chronicle* – (National) **Federal ban on a chemical used in toys will affect Texas.** A recently passed federal ban on a chemical used in children’s toys will be felt in Texas, where several major plastics makers have plants that make the chemical. But the impact is likely to be minor here because the legislation is focused on a small portion of the overall market for the chemical. It could also be temporary if the industry can prove the chemical is safe, the companies said. Also cleared by the House, the bill basically eliminates lead in toys and either permanently or temporarily bans six types of phthalates in children’s products. Phthalates are a broad family of chemicals primarily used to make vinyl soft and flexible. They are found in thousands of products including garden hoses, wiring and cables, construction materials, flooring, automotive interiors and medical devices. The chemical industry says phthalates have been used for decades and pose no health risks to humans, but consumer groups have pushed for their removal in some products, citing studies that link exposure to phthalates with cancer and possible reproductive problems. The European Union used such studies as the basis for a ban on phthalates in children’s products in 2004. “The impact on U.S. plastics producers should be small, particularly since most of these toy products are made outside the U.S.,” said an industry analyst with CMAI in Houston. Among the leading producers of phthalates in the U.S. are Germany’s BASF, Irving-based Exxon Mobil Corp. and Eastman Chemical Co., in Kingsport, Tennessee. In Texas, BASF produces the chemicals in Pasadena and makes alcohols that go into making so-called plasticizers in Freeport. Eastman makes plasticizers in Longview, while Exxon Mobil produces them in Baton Rouge. Officials with BASF and Eastman said they did not expect the new phthalate ban to have a negative impact on their businesses.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/business/5937769.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *August 12, Chattanooga Times* – (Alabama; Tennessee) **Tennessee Valley Authority loses one-third of nuclear production with reactors idled.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is coping with the high-energy demand of summer's dog days with one-third of its nuclear power capacity not in production. TVA's newest nuclear reactor and its most recently restored nuclear unit are both idle this week while plant workers make repairs on the non-nuclear portion of the two units, a TVA spokesman said Monday. The Unit 1 reactor at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Tennessee and the Unit 1 reactor at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Alabama were shut down last week when workers discovered different equipment problems. Last week, TVA also had to reduce power production at the other two Browns Ferry reactors because a power problem in the plants' cooling systems threatened to overheat the Tennessee River. But the spokesman said those two units were restored to full power Monday. The plant shutdowns and power reductions were conducted in accordance with federal regulations and did not endanger the public or plant staff, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. But the program director for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy said the outage at the Unit 1 reactor at Browns Ferry last week was the sixth unplanned shutdown of the unit since TVA restarted the reactor in May 2007 following a \$1.8 billion, five-year repair program.
Source: http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2503998.html
7. *August 12, News & Observer* – (North Carolina) **Malfunction shuts down nuclear plant.** The Shearon Harris nuclear power plant in southern Wake County had to shut down Monday after a condenser seal began to leak. The plant will remain shut down for the next few days until the problem can be fixed, said a spokesman for Progress Energy, which runs the plant. He said the leak was not on the nuclear side of the plant. Plant officials manually shut the plant down after indicators showed the seal was broken. He said the company wanted to fix the seal to ensure no other equipment would be damaged.
Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/100/story/1174599.html>
8. *August 12, Reuters* – (Nebraska) **NPPD Neb. Cooper reactor exits outage.** Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper nuclear power station exited an outage and ramped up to 20 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut August 9 during main turbine reheat stop valve surveillance testing.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1245225320080812>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *August 11, Air Force Research Laboratory* – (National) **New methodology, software to aid security measures.** Researchers at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Airbase

Technologies Division have developed a new security risk-assessment methodology and are developing a supporting software tool that integrates and transforms the traditional vulnerability assessment into a true risk-management process. The new methodology, for use at all military installations, accomplishes key elements of the installation antiterrorism program as required by Department of Defense and Air Force standards. “All military bases have valuable assets, whether those assets are buildings, equipment, or personnel,” said the Robotic Group lead, “Each base is required to perform antiterrorism vulnerability assessments to identify areas for security improvement. Due to the size of military bases and the large number of assets they possess, this can prove to be a time-consuming and difficult task.” This approach looks at each base’s risks locally and individually, and employs security tactics, techniques, and procedures specific to that base and its assets. Officials say the subsequent software tool is similar to commercial off-the-shelf income tax preparation software, walking base security specialists through a series of questions to elicit the data required to complete a useful risk assessment and report. AFRL researchers estimate the software will be available in late 2009.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123110302>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *August 12, Midlands News Service* – (National) **Advance-fee loan scams often target businesses.** The number of fraudulent loan scams targeting small-business owners has increased as more people seek alternative financing sources. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the national Better Business Bureau (BBB) recently issued warnings about advance-fee loan scams. Business owners have received unsolicited emails and phone calls from people promising to help secure financing in exchange for an up-front fee, said the president of the regional Better Business Bureau in Omaha. Some small-business owners have sought financing outside traditional banks and lending institutions because it is more difficult to get conventional loans, according to a BBB press release. Fewer small businesses are meeting the criteria to get commercial loans, but it is not because banks are changing their lending standards, said the chairman-elect of the Nebraska Bankers Association. Financial institutions are “able and willing” to make most types of commercial loans, with the exception of certain real estate loans, he said. The issue is not a lack of access to viable commercial loans. Current economic factors have negatively affected the creditworthiness of small businesses, which makes it more difficult for them to get a loan, the official said. The Internet has been a popular tool for some predators, according to the FDIC release. Scam artists have set up fake Web sites to lure potential borrowers, some using the logos of legitimate financial institutions and government agencies, according to the release.
Source: <http://www.nptelegraph.com/articles/2008/08/12/news/60000664.txt>

11. *August 12, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **2 charged in multimillion fraud.** The owners of the Chicago-based real estate investment firm, WexTrust Capital LLC, were arrested Monday on federal fraud charges, and U.S. regulators accused them of conducting a quarter-billion-dollar Ponzi scheme going back as far as 2005. Simultaneously, the

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) alleged in a lawsuit that the two men had raised \$255 million from about 1,200 people, many of them Orthodox Jews, and misappropriated the money. In affinity fraud, scammers target individuals with a common interest or belief, which may include a religious affiliation, to exploit their trust to obtain money. The SEC also won an order Monday freezing the company's assets. WexTrust owns at least 120 entities formed to acquire real-estate interests, and it has conducted at least 60 private placements since 2005, according to the SEC. Prosecutors with the Southern District of New York, where many of the victims reside, allege the suspects raised money in private placements for real estate investments. In one deal they solicited investors to buy seven commercial buildings leased to the U.S. General Services Administration. WexTrust also was involved with diamond mines in South Africa and Namibia, according to SEC documents.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-tue-wextrust-sec-charges-aug12,0,15298.story>

12. *August 11, Computerworld* – (National) **Wells Fargo code used to illegally access consumer data.** Wells Fargo Bank is in the process of notifying some 7,000 individuals that a thief may have accessed their Social Security numbers and other personal information by illegally using the financial services firm's access codes. The bank learned of the compromise on July 1 when MicroBilt Corp., a reseller of consumer data, notified it of suspicious transactions made using the Wells Fargo access codes, a spokeswoman for the San Francisco-based bank said Monday. The codes are used by Wells Fargo employees to gain access to consumer credit data. She said the records belonged to "random individuals," only a small number of whom were Wells Fargo customers. Investigators have not yet determined how the Wells Fargo access credentials were illegally obtained or by whom, she said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9112359&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

13. *August 11, Associated Press* – (National) **CFTC establishes task force on currency fraud.** Federal regulators have formed a task force to investigate and prosecute fraud in the retail market for trading foreign currencies outside of commodity exchanges, a field they say is riddled with unscrupulous operators. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which regulates U.S. futures markets, said it was establishing the task force within its enforcement division to focus on fraud in the off-exchange retail foreign currency market, as well as to work with other federal and state regulators and criminal authorities. Creation of the Forex Enforcement Task Force follows the June enactment of legislation that strengthened the CFTC's jurisdiction over that market, the agency said in a news release. The CFTC and state securities regulators have warned the public to be cautious before trading foreign currencies — especially outside of major exchanges such as the Chicago Mercantile Exchange — saying it is at best very risky and at worst, fraudulent. Investors hope to profit from ups and downs in currency markets. But sharp swings in prices also can cause large losses, especially when an investor borrows money to make an investment and can wind up owing more than their initial investment was worth. Regulators say fraudulent schemes often come in the form

of unsolicited phone calls and efforts to convince an investor to quickly transfer cash. The CFTC says it has brought nearly 100 enforcement actions since 2000 against companies and individuals accused of selling illegal foreign-exchange futures and options contracts.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i753GVF9vw2WkxVMPBSLt93S5YBQD92G65503>

14. *August 11, Consumer Affairs* – (Kentucky) **New twist on phishing scam surfaces in Kentucky.** A number of consumers in Kentucky have reported receiving telephone calls from someone claiming to be from Commonwealth Credit Union with a warning their credit cards are being suspended. Members and non-members of Commonwealth Credit Union have reported receiving calls on their cell, work and home phones. “This is a scam,” said Kentucky’s Attorney General. “Our investigators have received several complaints and confirmed with representatives from Commonwealth Credit Union that this is a hoax and may be an attempt to compromise members’ accounts.” The message asks people to call a phone number. When callers dial the toll-free number, they are then instructed to enter their credit-card numbers to reactivate the accounts. “Commonwealth Credit Union has informed our investigators that it will never make calls to members asking for personal information.”

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/08/scam_twist.html

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Transportation Sector

15. *August 12, USA Today* – (New York) **Plan to reroute NYC air traffic challenged.** Thirteen towns have sued to block the newly proposed airplane routes. Poorer communities, such as Elizabeth, New Jersey, where the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) plans new jet routes, have also sued. After 10 years of study, the FAA last year approved its plan to untangle the routes flights follow in the New York and Philadelphia regions. The plan would cut delays 20 percent, save airlines \$285 million a year in fuel and reduce average noise across the region, the FAA says.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-08-11-Air-Delays_N.htm

16. *August 12, Rutland Herald Vermont* – (National) **Tracks damaged in derailment.** Four miles of railroad tracks torn up by a relatively minor freight train derailment on Saturday night are now causing a major headache for both freight and passenger service through the center of the state. Beginning on Sunday, the damage to the New England Central Railroad mainline has forced passengers booked on both north and southbound Amtrak Vermonter trains to switch to buses for all stops above Springfield, Massachussets, and NECR freight trains have been detouring onto Vermont Railways tracks along the western edge of the state. Saturday night’s mishap occurred about 10 p.m. when at least two fully loaded railcars on a southbound NECR freight slipped partly off the rails and their giant steel wheels were dragged south across thousands of wooden ties, most of which were cut in two, before the cars finally tipped over and brought the train to an abrupt halt.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080812/NEWS03/808120334/1004/NEWS03>

17. *August 11, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Jet with blown tire lands safely in Houston.**

Airport officials say a passenger jet landed safely after blowing a tire on takeoff from Houston. Northwest Airlines Flight 3492 was headed to Minneapolis on Monday morning. An airport spokeswoman says the plane circled the airport so the control tower could check damage from the ground. Some rubber from the blown tire scattered along the runway. The jet returned safely to Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gE9TSs4QWw4DZEPd0XqhXdUHvR6QD92GB2I80>

18. *August 11, Associated Press* – (California) **FAA investigates oxygen masks on plane at LAX.** Federal officials said Monday they were investigating whether oxygen masks and an emergency chute deployed properly during last week's emergency landing of an American Airlines jet at Los Angeles International Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was also looking into reports that some of the masks failed to provide oxygen after passengers pulled the activation pin, said an FAA spokesman. The Honolulu-bound Boeing 757 took off from Los Angeles on August 5 but turned back an hour into the trip when the pilot noticed a smell and a smoky haze in the cabin. All the chutes functioned, but crew members had trouble deploying one, he said. Last year, several incidents spurred the FAA to order carriers to inspect and repair faulty mask systems in Boeing 757s, 737s and other commercial aircraft.

Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/08/11/state/n133926D16.DTL)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/08/11/state/n133926D16.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/08/11/state/n133926D16.DTL)

19. *August 11, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Federal judge: No guns at Atlanta airport.** A federal judge on Monday upheld a gun ban at the world's busiest airport, dealing a blow to gun rights groups who argued a new Georgia law authorized them to carry pistols in certain parts of the Atlanta airport. A U.S. District Judge expressed concern that allowing guns at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport could cause significant economic damage and could be a "serious threat to public safety and welfare." His decision rejected a request by GeorgiaCarry.org that would have temporarily allowed gun owners to carry their weapons in the airport until his final ruling on the gun ban — a challenge that could likely last months.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gRBGpYXCqND81Gr2Q0EhViM9UftQD92GC6BO1>

20. *August 11, AeroNews* – (National) **United pilots question airline's maintenance standards.** In a letter sent last week to an Acting Federal Aviation Administration Administrator, the chief of the United branch of the Air Line Pilots Association said four recent engine failures on Boeing 737s flown by United may indicate "maintenance standards have deteriorated at United as operational decisions are increasingly driven by

economic considerations.” In his letter, a UAL Captain called on the official to press senior management at the Chicago-based carrier to “stop the egregious management decisions which have caused events such as four engine failures in two weeks,” adding that United has increasingly made maintenance decisions “based on economics, often times at the expense of safety and regulatory compliance.” The Wall Street Journal reports the four incidents occurred from July 12 to August 3. The engine failures took place shortly after takeoff, and resulted in emergency returns to the airport but no injuries. United does not deny that four of its 737 Classics, which are due for retirement by the end of the year, suffered engine shutdowns, but a spokeswoman vehemently denied those failures had anything to do with the airline’s maintenance practices.

Source: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=92f5a12c-cfe2-4623-b34a-4d7875c5cd02>

21. *August 11, WCBS 2 New York City* – (New Jersey) **Freight train derailment causes NJ transit delays.** A freight train that derailed in Waldwick is causing major headaches for New Jersey Transit passengers during the Monday night rush. Only two cars from the Norfolk Southern train derailed on the Bergen County line around 2 p.m., but the accident caused major switch damage. Officials say it will take significant time to repair the switches and have them inspected, keeping traffic delayed through Monday evening. There were no injuries as a result of the accident.

Source: <http://wcbstv.com/topstories/freight.train.deraiment.2.792832.html>

22. *August 11, Bellingham Herald and Associated Press* – (National) **Woman taken to hospital after threat shuts border.** A woman whose threats closed the Peace Arch border crossing for more than four hours Sunday night, August 10, was taken to a Canadian hospital for a mental evaluation, police said. Royal Canadian Mounted Police brought in an explosives disposal unit to examine the woman’s bag but determined there was nothing suspicious in it. The woman tried to enter the United States but was turned back to Canada and, apparently angered, told a Canadian border officer that she had something suspicious in a bag, an RCMP watch commander in Surrey, British Columbia, told KOMO-TV in Seattle. Traffic was diverted to the Pacific Highway crossing about a mile away, and to the crossings at Lynden and Sumas farther east, from 8:20 p.m. Sunday until about 12:40 a.m. Monday, August 11.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/102/story/491932.html>

23. *August 11, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Alaska cancels 41 flights due to volcanic ash.** Alaska Airlines said Monday it canceled 41 flights between Alaska and major West Coast cities because of a rising cloud of ash resulting from a volcano eruption last week. The carrier, a subsidiary of Alaska Air Group Inc., said it has canceled flights between Alaska and cities including Denver, Los Angeles, Portland, Oregon, San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia. The airline said it is monitoring the ash and is expecting to resume flights later Monday.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26136955/>

Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *August 12, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Convention spells metro mail delivery, office changes.** During the Democratic Party’s National Convention, mail to about 12,000 downtown Denver homes and businesses will be delivered, on average, an hour and half earlier during convention week. Also, Mile High Station in the Denver Justice Center will be closed, and the Denver main post office will be open reduced hours. The post office also began removing its collection boxes from downtown Monday, calling it a standard security precaution for the convention.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_10170525

25. *August 11, WBNS 10 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Package addressed to principal evacuates school.** Police on Monday continued to investigate a package that prompted the evacuation of a Columbus, Ohio, high school. Whetstone High School was evacuated after the principal opened a piece of mail addressed to him and felt his eyes and hands burn. “It appeared to be some type of clothing article that had some type of writing on it,” said the Columbus Fire Battalion chief. “As soon as he touched it he started feeling the sensation so he put it down and immediately gave us a call.” Hazmat crews searched the evacuated building and found no chemicals. The shirt and envelope were being analyzed to try and determine what the liquid was and where the package came from. United States Parcel inspectors were involved in the investigation and said whoever sent the package could face felony charges. Administrators said the day’s events could lead them to reevaluate its policies on opening incoming mail.

Source:

http://www.10tv.com/live/content/local/stories/2008/08/11/story_package.html?sid=102

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *August 12, ScienceDaily* – (National) **Test to protect food chain from human form of Mad Cow disease.** Scientists are reporting development of the first test for instantly detecting beef that has been contaminated with tissue from a cow’s brain or spinal cord during slaughter, an advance in protecting against possible spread of the human form of Mad Cow Disease. Scientists point out that removal of brain, spinal, and other central nervous tissue after slaughter is “one of the highest priority tasks to avoid contamination of the human food chain with bovine spongiform encephalopathy,” better known as Mad Cow Disease. “No currently available method enables the real-time detection of possible central nervous system (CNS) tissue contamination on carcasses during slaughter,” the report states. They describe a test based on detection of the fluorescent pigment lipofuscin, a substance that appears in high concentrations in the nervous tissue of cattle. The researchers found that it was a dependable indicator for the presence of brain and spinal tissue in bovine carcasses and meat cuts. “Small quantities of bovine spinal cord were reliably detected in the presence of raw bovine skeletal muscle, fat and vertebrae. The research lays the foundation for development of a prototype device allowing real-time monitoring of CNS tissue contamination on bovine carcasses and meat cuts,” the

report says.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080811094749.htm>

27. *August 11, eFluxMedia* – (National) **1.2 million-pound recall from Nebraska Beef due to E. coli.** The possible contamination with Escherichia coli (E. coli) prompted the management of Nebraska Beef LTD to issue a recall of 1.2 million pounds of beef. The beef was distributed through several Whole Foods stores, which have issued a similar measure amid fears of E. coli contamination. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service confirmed the belief that beef products such as primal cuts, sub-primal cuts, as well as boxed beef from the company are contaminated with E. coli. The beef products that are to be withdrawn from the market were processed on June 17, June 24, as well as July 8, 2008. Authorities said there are already 31 reports of food poisoning with E. coli across the U.S. and Canada. There were such cases in 12 states and among them were Kentucky, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Utah, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. Whole Foods Market recalled on Friday the fresh beef products from all of its stores. The beef they were selling was being processed by Coleman Natural Foods after it had been purchased from Nebraska Beef.

Source:

http://www.efluxmedia.com/news_12_Million_Pound_Recall_From_Nebraska_Beef_Due_To_EColi_21916.html

28. *August 11, California Leafy Greens Handler Marketing Agreement* – (California) **Leafy Greens food safety program completes first year of audits.** A model consumer food safety program has completed more than 500 inspections in its first year thanks to the California Leafy Greens Handler Marketing Agreement (LGMA). There have been no confirmed major incidents since the creation of the LGMA, which has received very favorable reviews from an independent panel of academics. At the heart of the LGMA program is the mandatory government inspection program, which certifies that member companies are implementing food safety practices, which were developed by university and industry scientists, food safety experts, farmers, shippers, and processors. These food safety practices were also reviewed by state and federal government health agencies. All LGMA member companies are subject to mandatory government inspections on a regular, but random basis, to ensure LGMA-accepted food safety practices are being implemented. The inspections are conducted by California Department of Food and Agriculture inspectors who receive special training and certification from the United States Department of Agriculture. Currently, LGMA members represent over 99 percent of the volume of leafy green products produced in California. If an LGMA member is found to be out of compliance with the established food safety practices, they can be decertified from the program. Buyers of leafy green products support the LGMA program by only purchasing these products from certified member companies.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/leafy-greens-food-safety-program/story.aspx?guid={6D1B50C8-0614-409B-AAFA-F7F19C276E1A}&dist=hppr>

29. *August 11, Science Centric* – (National) **Pathogen that causes disease in cattle also associated with Crohn's disease.** People with Crohn's disease (CD) are seven-fold

more likely to have in their gut tissues the bacterium that causes a digestive-tract disease in cattle called Johne's disease. The report, *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis (MAP): Incidental Human Pathogen or Public Health Threat?*, summarizes conclusions and recommendations from a colloquium convened by the American Academy of Microbiology in June 2007 that brought together experts in microbiology, medicine, veterinary pathology, epidemiology, infectious diseases, and food safety. MAP has long been identified as the cause of Johne's disease. Despite efforts to limit the spread of MAP, roughly 68 percent of cattle herds in this country are infected, meaning one or more animals in the herd carry the bacterium and may develop Johne's disease or spread the infection to other animals. MAP has been found in milk, cheese, and beef on supermarket shelves.

Source: <http://www.sciencecentric.com/news/article.php?q=08081112>

30. *August 11, CNN* – (National) **Veterinarian shortage may impact safety of U.S. food supply.** Veterinary students are increasingly choosing to care for household pets instead of large animals, deterred by long hours, the rural location of jobs, and modest pay. By 2025, the American Veterinary Medical Association expects the vet shortage to grow to 15,000 -- most of them large animal doctors. Congress has taken note as experts warn a vet shortage could also weaken the security of the nation's food supply against threats like foot-and-mouth disease or even cripple the nation's defenses against bioterrorism threats. "Anthrax has been a longtime disease. It's been around for a long time, and veterinarians are the ones who had to primarily deal with it, so veterinarians are very familiar with these types of diseases," a Colorado senator said. He sponsored legislation that gives grants to schools preparing large animal vet students for jobs in the public health sector. Many in the profession say they are grateful for what they call "steps in the right direction," but they say much more needs to be done.

Source:

http://www.ktka.com/news/2008/aug/11/veterinarian_shortage_may_impact_safety_us_food_su/

31. *August 11, Digital Journal* – (Hawaii) **Some pork products recalled possible listeria contamination.** Palama Holdings, LLC, is recalling approximately 4,535 pounds of fully cooked pork products because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA FSIS) announced today. The pork products were produced on August 4 and August 7, 2008, and were distributed to food service and retail establishments in Hawaii to the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, and Oahu. The problem was discovered by FSIS' routine microbiological testing. FSIS has received no reports of illness associated with consumption of this product.

Source: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/258428>

32. *August 11, Associated Press* – (National) **DHS, rejecting advice, puts Mississippi on shortlist for facility.** Among the sites passed over for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility was Beltsville, Maryland, even though it scored better on Department of Homeland Security's evaluation system than the Mississippi site. The department said there were too many skilled researchers near Beltsville, and the agency worried about

competing to hire them. Government experts originally expressed concerns that the proposed site in Flora, 20 miles northwest of Jackson, Mississippi, is far from existing biodefense research programs and lacks ready access to workers already familiar with highly contagious animal and human diseases. But the DHS undersecretary overruled those concerns under the theory that skilled researchers would move to Mississippi if it were selected for the new lab, according to a July 2007 internal government memorandum, marked “sensitive information” and obtained by the Associated Press. Mississippi’s lawmakers include the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, which oversees DHS, and the top Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee that oversees DHS money. Each said he was not aware of the department’s deliberations about the lab location. The facility would replace an existing 24-acre research complex on isolated Plum Island, New York. Researchers also would study foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, Japanese encephalitis, Rift Valley fever, and the Hendra and Nipah viruses.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/10/AR2008081002092.html>

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Water Sector

33. *August 11, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Inadequate policing puts state’s water quality in jeopardy.** When the Department of Ecology – the state agency in Washington that watches over polluters – recently tallied how many employees it needed to protect the health of Puget Sound and local lakes and rivers, officials came to a startling conclusion. The number of people policing water quality is less than half of what is needed to do the job. Statewide, there are more than 6,500 construction sites, sewage treatment plants, machine shops, sand and gravel businesses, and others holding permits limiting how much they can pollute. But there are only about 114 Ecology staffers to oversee them. The department estimates that about 280 employees are needed. The trouble is that funding comes almost entirely from fees collected from the businesses and governments participating in the program. Many task force members want better accounting of how large a staff is really justified. And there is no consensus on who should pay to cover the gap. “The economy’s down right now and everyone is forced to cut back,” said a strategic policy planner for King County’s Wastewater Treatment Division and task force member. “On the other hand, you want a program that works.”

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/374396_ecology11.html

34. *August 11, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Mines still threaten Colorado River, foes say.** Federal officials plan to remove more than 16 million tons of abandoned uranium waste from a mining site on the banks of the Colorado River, but environmental groups warn that new threats of toxic pollution lurk downstream from future mining activity. The pile of uranium waste near Moab, Utah, will be hauled away by train, but the move could take a decade or longer. The abandoned mine, environmentalists say, highlights the risk of other mines near the river. The Environmental Working Group, an advocacy organization, compiled a database of mining claims on public lands and found more than

5,500 hard-rock mining claims within ten miles of the river and nearly 1,200 within five miles. Claims for uranium, gold, and other metals have doubled along the river in the past five years as demand for the materials rose. Environmental groups say mines too close to a river could contaminate the water and damage fragile ecosystems. The Colorado River supplies water for drinking and irrigation to more than 25 million people in Arizona, Nevada, California, and four other states. Existing laws permit mining on public lands with only a few restrictions. Attempts to protect rivers or to close ecologically sensitive areas to mining have failed in the past. A broad rewrite of the laws was passed this year in the House but seems unlikely to even come up for a vote in the Senate, where mining enjoys stronger support. Mining companies say only a few of the claims identified in the advocacy group's study will turn into mines. They argue that existing laws protect the land by forcing mining operations to undergo a litany of reviews before the first bucket of ore is removed.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/08/11/20080811river-mining0809.html>

35. *August 11, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Raw sewage spills into bay from Sausalito.** A blocked sewer pipe in Sausalito, California, sent sewage spilling into San Francisco Bay on Sunday; this is the third major spill this year. Police and fire officials investigated the spill, which was reported about 12:15 p.m. Sunday, and found raw sewage leaking into the bay at about 40 gallons per minute, according to the Sausalito chief of police. It was not yet known how much sewage was spilled. The spill was caused by a blockage in a pipe at a pump station. The Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District's station collects waste from sewers and pumps it to a treatment plant about a half mile south. The blockage was cleared by about 3 p.m. Sunday, the chief said. Nine Marin County cities and sanitation districts are under orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to repair and upgrade their decrepit sewer pipes. Environmental watchdog groups say the problem of deteriorating sewer infrastructure leading to spills is widespread throughout the Bay Area.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/11/BA84128NIJ.DTL>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

36. *August 11, Press Trust of India* – (International) **New strain of bird flu virus reported in Africa.** A new strain of avian flu virus, hitherto unreported in Africa and similar to the ones identified last year in Italy, Afghanistan, and Iran has been identified in the continent for the first time in Nigeria. Tests conducted by Nigeria and by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) show the new bird flu virus strain is genetically distinct from other forms detected in Nigerian outbreaks in 2006 and 2007. "It seems unlikely that wild birds have carried the strain to Africa, since the last migration of wild birds from Europe and Central Asia to Africa occurred in September 2007 and this year's southerly migration into Africa has not really started yet," the International Wildlife Coordinator of FAO's Animal Health Service. He pointed to other avenues the virus could have taken to Nigeria, such as international trade or illegal and unreported

movement of poultry. The FAO has called for stepped up surveillance to monitor the virus and keep track of its spread

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blnus/14121032.htm>

37. *August 11, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Study says Iowa has health care provider shortage.** The state Department of Public Health says a new study shows there is a shortage of health care providers in Iowa. The report estimates that nearly 242,000 Iowans will be without reliable access to health care by 2015 because of a poor distribution of health care professionals. It says at least 250 more providers are needed in underserved communities around the state. The study that state health officials referred to is called ACCESS Transformed: Building a Primary Care Workforce for the 21st Century. It was conducted by the National Association of Community Health Centers in partnership with the Robert Graham Center and George Washington University. The study recommends that Iowa expand education and training opportunities, provide incentives for work in underserved areas and secure higher reimbursement rates for health care providers.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-healthcareshortag,0,1768594.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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Emergency Services Sector

38. *August 11, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas; National) **Moving 911 into the age of texting.** Within the next two to five years it may be possible to send text messages and photos to 911 in the Houston area. The area is implementing a program called Next Generation 911 that would allow any communication device from anywhere to reach 911. Recent technology is driving the change. Mobile devices have altered the way people communicate, yet 911 networks have not kept pace, said emergency communication officials. Many 911 systems still operate on analog technology from 40 years ago, when basic 911 was first introduced. Others have made the transition to digital technology but still rely on analog to get calls to an answering center. Next Generation, however, is Internet protocol, or software based, so it can communicate with all devices regardless of format. The National Emergency Number Association, representing the 911 industry, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Commerce are pushing the concept. The federal government has spent about \$5.5 million during the past two years on research and development to design what officials hope will eventually become a seamless, nationwide 911 system.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5935575.html>

39. *August 11, Associated Press* – (California) **Local agencies to respond to simulated**

terrorist attacks. Local police and fire agencies will participate in two simulated terrorist attacks in San Francisco on Saturday. The Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise begins at 555 California Street where a mock terrorist event will provoke a response from local agencies. As the scenario unfolds, agencies will be requested to respond and assist with investigation, mitigation, rescue, and recovery aspects. The exercise is being coordinated by the San Francisco Fire Department. The response and actions will be evaluated by an evaluation team afterward.

Source: <http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=SIMULATED-ATTACK-bagm->

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Information Technology

40. *August 11, SC Magazine* – (National) **Majority of malware attacks go undetected.** Most malicious internet attacks go undetected by anti-virus software, according to a report released Monday by Cyveillance, a digital intelligence company. Data collected from several top anti-virus vendors during a 30-day period showed that more than half of the malware attacks went undetected. In addition, the Cyveillance 1H Online Fraud Report stated that malware attacks delivered via the web have more than doubled in frequency compared to the same period during the previous year. Essentially, new malware threats are developed quicker than the anti-virus companies can develop fixes, the director of product management at Cyveillance told SCMagazineUS.com on Monday. The most important change going on is the division of labor in the attacker underground, which is causing fast-changing malware, he said. “Today the threat environment has transformed to a more complex supply chain where players are highly specialized and consequently more productive,” he said. “Vulnerabilities are sold to ‘software developers’ who create packaged malware generation software that can then be used by multiple types of attackers and are capable of generating multiple unique targeted attacks and are continuously updated with new exploits.”

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Majority-of-malware-attacks-go-undetected/article/113673/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

41. *August 11, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan: National) **Cell phone towers still vulnerable to power outages.** Five years after the largest blackout in North American history on August 14, 2003, many wireless telephone companies, whose cell phone

towers would go silent after several hours of no commercial power, are having trouble meeting reliability standards. When six million Michigan residents lost their power in 2003, and as seen in several natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina in 2005, cell phone towers soon started running out of power from backup batteries, making it very difficult for people to communicate. For more than a year, the Federal Communications Commission has been trying to institute rules that would require the telcos to equip their cell phone tower sites with backup service that would keep them running for at least eight hours. But the wireless industry has resisted this, saying it is too expensive. Many of the nation's 210,000 cell phone towers have some sort of battery backup power in place that allow the sites to handle relatively short power disruptions that last no longer than a few hours. But in massive blackouts, as seen in 2003, once those batteries are drained, the towers cease to function.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080811/BLOG01/80811021&imw=Y>

42. *August 11, NBC 6 Northland* – (Wisconsin) **Thieves steal fiber optic cable & create \$10,000 in damages.** Superior police officers were investigating a theft at Conner's Point on Monday morning after someone stole 200 feet of fiber optic cable that caused \$10,000 in damages. Some Century Tel customers will be without phone, internet, and television services for some time. A Century Tel employee witnessed three people fleeing from the area; two of whom stopped to roll a boulder onto the road so they could not be followed.

Source: <http://www.northlandsnewscenter.com/news/local/26847549.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

43. *August 12, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **A high-tech response to cactus thefts in Palm Desert.** State and national parks have been victims of cactus theft. Saguaro National Park near Tucson recently had 17 large saguaros taken. The chief ranger said the park plans to microchip its cactuses. "In some cases the thieves work for landscapers, and in other cases they are independent contractors who sell the saguaro to legitimate commercial operations," he said. "Depending on the size and shape, or if it has arms, they sell for anywhere from \$500 to \$5,000 or more each." Anza-Borrego Desert State Park east of San Diego has not seen an upswing in theft, but the barrel cactus remains the prime quarry for those who do poach on the sprawling 600,000-acre preserve. "Once or twice a year we encounter people with shovels and pickup trucks trying to steal cactus," said a park spokeswoman. "You can see the cumulative impact of 60 years of this kind of thing along some park roads where all of a sudden there are no

barrel cactus.”

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-cactus12-2008aug12,0,7761010.story>

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Dams Sector

44. *August 12, Concord Journal* – (Massachusetts) **Dam breach under control.** A 12 to 15 foot section of the temporary coffer dam at Warner’s Pond in Massachusetts failed Saturday around noon, sending a surge of water under the bridge, through Nashoba Brook, and into the Assabet River. Town and state agencies, contractors, and dam manufacturers met Monday morning to discuss the project and breach, which caused a 10 to 15 foot area to act as a weir and drop the water level by a few feet. “They have seen this happen before,” the Concord Public Works director said of PortaDam, the dam manufacturers. “So they’re not completely surprised by this, but [the failure] is certainly not something they would call a common occurrence.” The director said the cause of the breach has yet to be determined, but he believes that will be resolved when the redundant dam is put into place. The contractors and manufacturers bear responsibility for the integrity of the dam, he said.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/concord/news/x1481394634/Dam-breach-under-control>

45. *August 12, WRCB 3 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Wamp updates lock progress at Chickamauga Dam.** A congressman is making sure the repairs at the Chickamauga Lock stay on schedule. This is the first cell built on the Tennessee River. These cells will play an important role in the lock building process. When it is finally complete, the wait time for barges carrying goods up and down the river will drop. The completion date of the lock is expected in 2014, assuming funding is allocated each year.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8826102>

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